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## **Michigan Section – MAA**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, Number 1



**Rood Hall at Western Michigan University** 

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: Mathematical Education in Viet Nam

sections.maa.org/michigan

## Mathematical Association of America Michigan Section Newsletter Volume 38, Number 1

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#### sections.maa.org/michigan

Abbreviations

C = College CC = Community College CMU = Central Michigan U EMU = Eastern Michigan U FSU = Ferris State U GVSU = Grand Valley State U KU = Kettering U LSSU = Lake Superior State U LTU = Lawrence Technological U MSU = Michigan State U MTU = Michigan Technological U NMU = Northern Michigan U OU = Oakland U SHU = Siena Heights U SVSU = Saginaw Valley State U U = University UDM = U of Detroit Mercy UM = U of Michigan WMU = Western Michigan U WSU = Wayne State U

## **Calendar of Events**

January 4–7, 2012	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Boston, MA	
May 4–5, 2012	Michigan Section Meeting, SVSU	
August 2–4, 2012	MAA MathFest, Madison, WI	
November 8–11, 2012	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL	
January 9–12, 2013	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA	
August 1–3, 2013	MAA MathFest, Hartford, CT	
Oct. 31–Nov. 3, 2013	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA	
January 15–18, 2014	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD	
August 7–9, 2014	MAA MathFest, Portland, OR	
November 20–23, 2014	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN	
January 10-13, 2015	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX	
August 5-8, 2015	MAA MathFest, Washington, DC	
November 19–22, 2015	AMATYC Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA	
January 6–9, 2016	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA	
November 17–20, 2016	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Denver, CO	
January 4–7, 2017	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA	
November 9–12, 2017	AMATYC Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA	

#### **Organizational Web sites**

Michigan Section–MAA	sections.maa.org/michigan
MAA	www.maa.org
NCTM	www.nctm.org
MCTM	www.mictm.org
AMATYC	www.amatyc.org
MichMATYC	www.michmatyc.org
MMPC	www.svsu.edu/mmpc
MiNExT	www.hillsdalesites.org/personal/dmurphy/
	MiNExT.html

#### **Chairperson's Report**

As we enter another year, I'd like to express thanks to our many members for their contributions that support the Section and mathematics in Michigan. We are an all-volunteer organization, and the fact that we have so many successful programs is a reflection of our collective support for mathematics. For me personally, it has been a joy to serve alongside members who have encouraged me since I first encountered the Michigan MAA as a high schooler competing in the MMPC.

I take this opportunity to highlight a few of our programs and indicate some changes in leadership in order to make



us all aware of opportunities for participation and greater involvement.

Recently, the Executive Committee has been mindful of activities of Mi-NExT, our program for new and recent Ph.D.'s in the mathematical sciences. Its goals are like those of national Project NExT, to equip members to become more effective teachers who are able to balance teaching and scholarship. The networking aspects of Mi-NExT support goals we all share as members of the Section. So please encourage your junior colleagues to contact **David Murphy** (Hillsdale C), who is working to organize events for the current year, and to visit the Mi-NExT Web page for more information.

The Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition is perhaps the most farreaching activity in the Section. **Hasan Al-Halees** (SVSU) has completed his third and final year of service as Director. We are grateful to him for overseeing the continued success of the MMPC and the thousands of high school students who participate each year. **Stephanie Edwards** (Hope C) is the new Director. We welcome her to the Executive Committee and to this important task, and we thank her for all the work she already is doing on behalf of MMPC.

**John Fink** (Kalamazoo C) has served the Section in a number of capacities. He now has completed a first year as Governor, and he represented us at the Board of Governors meeting at MathFest in August. **Mark Bollman** (Albion C) continues as Secretary/Treasurer. In this capacity, Mark does a wonderful job in helping to monitor the state of Section finances, to keep the bills paid and tax returns filed, to staff the MAA exhibit at the annual 2

meeting, and much more.

**Sid Graham** (CMU) is in his second term as Webmaster and has been working to update and relocate the Web page to the national server. We hope you find that the new format gives a clear picture of the many programs and activities we support. Visit sections.maa.org/michigan.

**Norm Richert** (Mathematical Reviews) continues to serve as Editor for this twice-annual *Newsletter*. The *Newsletter* is the first place many of us turn when we need to be reminded of upcoming events, and it keeps us connected through the reporting of Section activities and news from our campuses. Thanks to Norm for this entirely professional publication and to **Jerrold Grossman** (OU) and **Will Dickinson** (GVSU), who support the effort as Associate Editor and Ad Manager, respectively.

**Darin Stephenson** (Hope C) completed his term on the Executive Committee, serving his final year as Past Chair. **Tim Husband** (SHU) has transitioned from serving as Chair to Past Chair, and now works on matters like award nominations and seeing that our various committees have volunteers to complete the work. Darin and Tim have done excellent work, and their service is greatly appreciated by all of us.

**Kris Chatas** (Washtenaw CC) continues in her role as Two-Year College Vice Chair. **Dan Isaksen** (WSU) is new to the Executive Committee as Four-Year College Vice Chair. Kristin and Dan, along with others of the Program Committee, have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming Annual Meeting at SVSU. Hasan Al-Halees (SVSU) is chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. Please see Dan's current Four-Year College Vice Chair report in this *Newsletter* for some details of the 2012 meeting and recognition of others involved.

Looking ahead, the Executive Committee was delighted to accept an offer from LSSU to host the 2013 meeting, and some early planning is already underway. Spring has normally arrived by early May in Sault Ste. Marie—the average temperature is in the low 50's and the trees and flowers have started to emerge. As I personally saw during my recent visit at the UP Regional Meeting, there also is wonderful scenery nearby.

We enjoyed another successful Annual Meeting this past Spring, for which much credit is due to **Dennis Pence** (WMU), who chaired the Local Arrangements Committee, and several of our colleagues at WMU. Thanks to Dennis, to WMU, and to the many people who attended!

Finally, the Executive Committee is always eager for new ideas for supporting mathematics in Michigan, for new people we might bring into leadership, and for new or old venues to host upcoming meetings. Please contact any member of the Executive Committee with your suggestions.

Mike Bolt, Chair

#### **Annual Meeting in May**

The Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMA-TYC will occur Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5, 2012 at Saginaw Valley State University.

The Program Committee is delighted to announce a speaker list that includes plenary addresses by **Doug Ensley** (Second Vice President MAA, Shippensburg University), **Kathleen Heid** (Penn State University), **Sommer Gentry** (United States Naval Academy), and **Darren Narayan** (Rochester Institute of Technology). In addition, we look forward to local-invited talks given by a number of our Michigan



colleagues. Further details about the program schedule, including titles and abstracts of these presentations, will appear in the Spring *Newsletter*.

Contributed talks form an essential component of the Annual Meeting. The Program Committee requests that all Section members consider giving a contributed talk, as this venue is an excellent way to share your scholarly work, become better acquainted with your Michigan colleagues, and foster opportunities for collaborative work. Talks may be on any subject related to mathematics: mathematical scholarship, expository mathematics, or issues related to curriculum or pedagogy in the collegiate classroom.

In addition, we invite undergraduate and graduate students to give presentations at the meeting; faculty should encourage their students to consider this opportunity. The Ron Mosier Memorial Award will again be presented to the student(s) with the most outstanding talk. Ron was a mathematician whose contributions to the subject spanned both pure and applied areas. He also was a regular attendee at the Annual Meeting, and one of the things he most enjoyed was the student talks. Instructions for submitting abstracts for one of the contributed sessions are included in the Call for Papers in this *Newsletter* on page 5.

The meeting is scheduled to run all day Friday and through mid-day on Saturday. There will be luncheons both days and a banquet Friday evening. As is our custom, the Section will present both a teaching award and a service award at the Friday banquet. Both of the luncheons and the banquet will be followed by a plenary talk. 4

The 2012 Program Committee consists of **Dan Isaksen** (WSU), **Matt Boelkins** (GVSU), **Kristin Chatas** (Washtenaw CC), and **Hasan Al-Halees** (SVSU). If you have a question or suggestion regarding the program, please contact one of us. Hasan Al-Halees is also chairing the Local Arrangements Committee. Contact information for all of us may be found on page 34 in this *Newsletter*.

Updated conference information will appear at www.math.wayne. edu/~isaksen/Conference/12michmaa.

Dan Isaksen, Four-Year College Vice Chair

#### Webmaster's Report

During the past summer, I completed moving the Section Web page to the national MAA host. Our new Web site is sections.maa.org/michigan. Please take a look at it if you have not already.

It is my pleasure to thank MAA Webmaster **Maia Henley** for help and advice for setting up the new Web site. The Web team at MAA provided useful new templates and spiffy new graphics. See for example, the threedimensional solid candles that now grace our index page. **Matt Graham** also merits thanks for resolving some stubborn technical issues during the transition.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank **Earl Fife** for setting up the original section Web site in 1995. Earl hosted our Web site on his computer at Calvin College for 16 years. He was our original Webmaster, and he has been a very valuable resource person for all of the subsequent Webmasters.

#### Sid Graham, CMU

#### **MAA Campus Liaisons**

With so many things happening in the MAA and the Michigan Section, it's important to keep our members informed of news and opportunities. This is the job of the MAA Liaisons.

We hope that you are receiving news through a liaison at your institution. If you are, give your liaison a pat on the back for helping keep you informed. If not, please help us make sure that our list of liaisons is current by visiting sections.maa.org/michigan/liaisons.html and sending any corrections to the Section's Liaison Coordinator **David Austin** (austind@gvsu.edu).

If your institution does not have a liaison, please consider volunteering. The work is as easy as clicking "Forward" periodically in your e-mail program. And you'll earn the appreciation of your well-informed colleagues!

David Austin, GVSU

# **Call for Papers**

The Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC invite papers from students and faculty for the next combined Annual Meeting.

## Saginaw Valley State University University Center, MI May 4–5, 2012

Abstract submission will be available soon at www.math.wayne. edu/~isaksen/Conference/12michmaa.

Talks should be 20 minutes in length, including a few minutes for questions. Your abstract must include your name, affiliation, home or office address, phone number, e-mail address, and any equipment needs you have for your presentation. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Isaksen.

The deadline for abstracts is March 14, 2012. Undergraduate abstracts may be submitted until March 28.

Abstracts received after the deadlines will be considered as space permits.

#### 6 Governor's Report

At MathFest in Lexington last August, Tina Straley attended her final meeting as Executive Director of the MAA. She will be succeeded by Michael Pearson, currently the Associate Executive Director. Michael received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi in 1980, a master's degree from Mississippi State University in 1982, and a Ph.D. in Harmonic Analysis from The University of Texas at Austin in 1989. Prior to joining the MAA in 2002 he served on the faculty at Florida International University and Mississippi State University. He will assume his new duties after Tina retires at the end of the year.



In her final written report to the board, Tina gave a brief overview of the financial issues facing the association. During the first five years of this century, the MAA experienced tremendous growth. The annual budget doubled in those years. In 2005, the organization experienced an operating surplus of almost \$600,000. However, in 2007 the MAA financial picture started changing and by 2009 the MAA was experiencing annual operating deficits of around \$250,000. Membership numbers became flat, dues and revenues actually decreased, journal subscriptions decreased, and large grants were not replaced at the same levels with new grants. Although the MAA continues to be in a sound financial position, the 2012 budget that the Board approved at this meeting reflects a downsizing of operations throughout the Association.

A recurring challenge for the MAA (and probably for many other professional organizations as well) is keeping up with the e-world. The organization maintains a very large Web site but has only a small IT department. If you have visited the Web site and found its search capabilities inadequate, you are not alone. One reason for this is that the site currently reflects the MAA's organizational structure and is not arranged with the user in mind. This is not surprising: there is just one person in the IT department whose main responsibility is the Web site.

On a more promising note, e-memberships are becoming a significant proportion of all memberships and in all categories. Very few e-members choose journals in print, so costs are lower, but e-members renew at rates comparable to other members so revenues are not severely affected.

Following the Executive Director's report, the Board broke into smaller groups to discuss issues related to the new CUPM curriculum guide that will appear in 2014. Here are some of the questions we considered: What is the mathematics major? How interdisciplinary can it be? Do we expect all majors to know analysis? or algebra? or both? (Some very good schools require neither.) Where do our majors go? What kinds of experiences will get them there? The 2014 guidelines promises to suggest some answers to these questions and to many more like them.

It looks like a wonderful list of speakers on the schedule for the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Boston next January. I hope to see many of you there!

#### John Fink, Governor

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# SVSU in May

### 8 Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The Section's current bank balance (as of October 13) is \$2961.82. This is normally the lowest point of the year, because it is before most of the dues contributions come in. The Annual Meeting in May was financially balanced, in that expenses were met from registration and meal fees without the need for support from other Section funds. The Section has some support (\$1052 this year) from the Washington office of the MAA, advertising revenue, and occasional grants, but most of the Section's income is from the voluntary dues payments of the members. We continue to be grateful for your support



of the Section's activities through your voluntary contributions. I would specifically like to thank those members who have contributed to the Ron Mosier Memorial Award fund, which is now set to recognize outstanding student presentations at the Annual Meeting.

By now, Section members should have received their annual dues mailing. The dues contribution for an individual dues-paying membership remains \$15, or \$30 (or more) for a sustaining membership. Once again this year, we are providing the option of paying individual dues online by credit card through Google Checkout. A link to Google Checkout is provided on the Section's Web site, and further details on this option are included with your dues letter. Institutional membership dues are \$40 or \$70, depending on the size of the institution. Institutional members will receive the end-of-year report from the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, and also have access to a database of all MMPC Part II participants to aid in recruiting efforts.

If I can be of any help, drop me a line at mbollman@albion.edu. Mark Bollman, Secretary/Treasurer

## SVSU in May

### **Michigan NExT**

Michigan NExT has launched a Colloquium Speaker Listing. This is presently available on the Michigan NExT Web site, www.hillsdalesites. org/personal/dmurphy/MiNExT.html. Colloquium chairs are invited to visit this site for a growing list of speakers and talks they are prepared to give. In addition, all are encouraged to email **David Murphy** (dmurphy@hillsdale. edu) with their talks' titles and abstracts to be added to this list.

The 2012 Michigan NExT Symposium will be held during the Michigan Section Annual Meeting at SVSU. Its organizers, David Murphy (Hillsdale C) and **Amy Hlavacek** (SVSU), are currently seeking suggestions for a theme for the symposium as well as volunteers to speak at the event. To suggest a topic or volunteer to give a talk, please e-mail David. More details about the program for the 2012 Symposium will be available in the Spring *Newsletter*. Other Michigan NExT events are also being planned.

Michigan NExT is a forum for pre-tenure faculty at Michigan colleges and universities to discuss issues pertaining to academic careers in mathematics. All who are interested are welcome to join us. We especially encourage pre-tenure faculty to participate and request that department chairs pass along this encouragement to their new hires.

#### David Murphy, Hillsdale C



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#### Mathematical Education in Viet Nam

Ruth Favro Lawrence Techological University

#### Introduction

There has been a lot of talk about math education in Vietnam, particularly at the higher levels, since University of Chicago Professor Ngô Bảo Châu was awarded the Fields Medal in August, 2010, at the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM). I had already become familiar with Vietnam and its culture, since my husband and I were there for three weeks in June of 2007. We stayed in Hanoi, traveled to a small village about a two-hour drive south of Hanoi, and took side trips to areas of interest. Several weeks after we returned home, the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) was held in Hanoi in late July. Due to my interest in mathematics competitions, I had become familiar with the impressive showing of Vietnam's elite high school students in the IMOs. These events sparked my interest in math education in Vietnam, both in the rural areas and in the cities.

#### Education

The educational system is based on the French and Russian systems. The teaching style is mainly lecture and response, with theory being emphasized more than the applications in math and the sciences. [4][5][7] Elementary school is grades 1 through 5, middle school grades 6 through 9, and high school grades 10 through 12. The mathematics curriculum is similar to ours, both as to content and when the topics are introduced. Students start specializing in grades 10–12, and begin preparation for the rigorous university entrance exam.

There are several short videos posted on YouTube that give a brief flavor of the classrooms in elementary and middle school. An interesting feature in the early grades, the blackboard has wide steps mounted in front so the small children can reach the blackboard. [6]

The literacy rate is estimated to be 90–94%, and education is respected. School attendance is mandatory for ages 6–14, but the poorest students often drop out after that. Many primary schools have two shifts per day, and the government is trying to upgrade to whole days. [8] Expenses come from needing books, uniforms, and some teaching fees. Schools loan books to students, but students have to buy some books. Uniforms are required in many schools, more commonly in the cities, more commonly in middle and high school. A family may ask relatives to help a good student with school expenses, and to help with university fees.

How is talent recognized and developed in the villages? People in the school and village know who the good students are. But there may not be access to higher-level classes in the villages, as there is in the cities. In the past, girls would study "softer" courses in high school, such as literature, to leave more time to take care of family. I heard a story about a high school math teacher from a rural area, one of whose daughters excelled in math and science, and went on to a major science university in Hanoi. That was the exception at the time, even ten years ago. But in the past few years, girls are taking more math, science, and technical courses.

There are more opportunities in the big cities for advanced precollege study, with private schools, and specialized schools. This certainly shows in the participation of students in the top mathematical competitions. The Vietnamese Mathematical Olympiad (VMO) was established in 1962 and has been held every year except 1973. International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) participation began in 1974; the best team showing was 3rd place in 1999 and 2007, with four 4th places and three 5th places over the years. There have been notable successes such as the gold medals won by Ngô Bảo Châu in1988 (with a perfect score of all 7's) and 1989. (The following people who you might recognize were on the 1988 IMO teams as students, and are now professors in this country: Terence Tao, Aus. (UCLA), Ravi Vakil, Can. (Stanford), Harm Derkson, Neth. (UM-AA).) [3]

There are many universities; the elite universities are in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), such as the Vietnamese National University (VNU), with campuses in both cities. Universities tend to be specialized, as in other Asian countries such as China. There are some shortcomings in the system. Professors do not have offices, or may have a common room, so they generally don't spend much time with students outside of class. Teachers at all levels, including professors, are poorly paid and often take outside jobs such as tutoring to earn more money. There is a separation between those who teach, and those who do research. [1][2][5]

After university, getting a job in one's field can be difficult unless

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#### From the Origin: Newsletter Opinion Section

you know someone or have connections; someone specializing in the humanities may end up, say, as a tour guide (with foreign language facility, especially English). The situation is better in computer science, information technology, and the sciences. While Masters and Ph.D. programs are offered in Vietnam, university graduates in mathematics are likely to take higher degrees abroad, especially in France or Russia, and also in the US or Australia.

Working within the administrative structure, changes have been proposed to address the shortcomings and inequities in the system as mentioned above, and other issues brought up in discussions such as IMO success or a perceived lack of it, and the benefits of theoretical vs. applied mathematics. [1][2][7]

Prof. Ngô has also been appointed to head a new institute in Hanoi, the Institute for Advanced Mathematics. While the principal mission of the Institute is to attract visiting scholars to Vietnam, it also aims to strengthen university math and encourage high school math studies. The hope is to counter what some see as trends toward thinking math isn't cool, it's of no use, and that young people are being influenced by popular culture on the Internet, etc. (Sounds familiar.) [1][7]

#### **Background and Flavor**

I would like to add some facts and impressions about Vietnam. It is a long, thin, country of about 89 million people (as of 2011, estimates vary), in about 128,000 square miles, including water. It is roughly divided into three regions: south, anchored by Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), central with the ancient capital of Huê', and north, with the modern capital of Hanoi, and the mountains in the far north. It is developing rapidly, has a steadily growing population, but still has many inequalities in income, health care, and gender. [4]

Rice farming is very important. The rice fields even come up to the borders of Hanoi. June in the north is the first harvest and second planting (there are 3 harvests per year in the south). In the villages, children start working in the rice fields in their early teens, working on summer holiday (mid-June to end of August), and some during the school year.

In the summer, the weather is very hot and humid; during our trip, the daytime high temperature was about 95° F, with 85% humidity. While the power is always on in the big cities, and the usual conveniences can be found, including Internet cafes, it is different in the rural areas,

where electric service is subject to rolling brownouts or blackouts.

Travel in the cities is mostly by motorbike (also used as taxis), resembling a fluid flow, with pedestrians merging and hopefully avoiding the throng. Also there are bicycles, taxis, vans, pedicabs, etc. In the villages there are more bicycles, fewer larger vehicles, and the ubiquitous "moto".

Our trip was an excellent experience. In addition to some sightseeing and visiting the beautiful Ha Long Bay area, we were able to meet many people, enjoy the city, countryside, and the cuisine, and learn about the culture.

#### Conclusion

This is not a comprehensive review, but an effort to sort out many different things I have heard and seen from different sources, and verified or filled in with print and Web resources. Vietnam has been modernizing and upgrading its educational system within the governmental structure. With its hard-working and educated population, it should continue to be a force in mathematics and other disciplines. Hopefully, some of the economic and gender inequities can be addressed.

#### References

[1] Neal Koblitz, Interview with Professor Ngô Bảo Châu, The Mathematical Intelligencer, 33 (2011), no. 1, 46-50; MR2774451.

[2] http://www.math.washington.edu/~koblitz/tripreport2010.pdf; higher ed and women's issues.

[3] http://www.imomath.com/; IMO/VMO site.

[4] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam.

[5] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education\_in\_Vietnam.

[6] Short YouTube videos of middle and elementary school classes; search "Vietnam math".

[7] Opinions and interviews

http://en.www.info.vn/science-and-education/issues-and-though/11187-what-use-is-theoretical-math-for-a-country-like-vietnam.html.

http://en.www.info.vn/science-and-education/issues-and-though/34092-love-for-mathematics-exists-no-longer-among-viet-namese-students.html.

[8] http://en.moet.gov.vn/?page=6.7&view=4401. Education Ministry document, focus on primary schools. Report updated 2006.

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## 14 54th Annual MMPC

The 55th Annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition is underway. **Stephanie Edwards** (Hope C) is the Director of the 55th, 56th, and 57th MMPCs. All information related to the MMPC is posted at the MMPC Web site, math.hope.edu/mmpc.

About 200 schools and 6700 students participated in Part I, which took place on Wednesday, October 5, and results are being tabulated. Invitations will be extended to approximately 1000 students to participate in Part II on Wednesday, November 30.

The exam committee of **Eddie Cheng** (Chair, OU), **Sid Graham** (CMU), **Hugh Montgomery** (UM-AA), and **Daniel Frohardt** (WSU) has worked very hard in preparing Part I and Part II and we thank them.

Grading Day is Saturday, January 14, 2012 on the campus of Albion College. Special thanks to **Mark Bollman** for arranging the grading day in a central location (which is less likely to have a lake effect snow white-out in mid-January than Holland).

Directions, problems, solutions, and assignments will be posted on the MMPC Web site. Teams of 10 to 12 people will work on each of the five problems of Part II. This is our tentative schedule:

8:30 am	Welcome and refreshments
9:00 am	Grading
12:30 pm	Lunch

Please discuss this event in your department and come as a group to enjoy this important and fun project of the Michigan Section of the MAA–it promises to be a super fun time and is a great way to get to know your colleagues from around the state. Send the names of those who are able to attend Grading Day to the Director (mmpc@hope.edu).

The Awards presentation and banquet will be held on the Hope campus, and one of Hope's own, **Tim Pennings**, and his mathematical marvel Welsh Corgi, **Elvis**, will be the speakers for the Awards Banquet (tentatively scheduled for February 25).

#### Stephanie Edwards, Hope C

#### **Upper Peninsula Regional Conference**

The annual Fall Upper Peninsula Regional Mathematics Meeting took place at Lake Superior State University on Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1.

Delegations of six from MTU, four from NMU, and three from Upper Peninsula community colleges attended, along with several LSSU locals and one retired industrial mathematician now living in the UP. Several non-mathematician spouses also attended, and joined for dinner on Friday evening and shared in a scenic trip, enjoying the Fall colors in the trees along the way.

There were two plenary speakers. As has become the practice, the current chair of the Michigan Section of the MAA, **Mike Bolt** (Calvin C) was one of them. He spoke on representing functions on the complex plane with a color scheme developed by Frank Farris.

The other plenary speaker was **Karen Rhea** (UM-Ann Arbor). She used the calculus program at the University of Michigan to illustrate some principles of effective teaching of mathematics, although she made no claims of having the final answer on what is effective teaching of mathematics.

In addition to the two plenary sessions, there were seven contributed talks. Four of these were from NMUers, while the other three were by MTUers, including two from graduate students.

Following the agreed-upon rotation, next year's meeting will be hosted by NMU. Watch for details concerning the dates and plenary speakers. If you are looking for a serious reason to enjoy an Upper Peninsula color tour next Fall, this might be it.

John Kiltenen, NMU and Tom Boger, LSSU

### Nominations Sought for Awards and Offices

Nominations are now being accepted for the awards and offices below. More teaching and service award information can be found at sections.maa. org/michigan/history.html#award.

#### The 2012 Michigan Section's Distinguished Service Award.

Nominations are also now being solicited for the Michigan Section's Distinguished Service Award. The awardee will be honored at the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section. The Distinguished Service Award Committee (see page 35) will accept nominations until January 15, 2012. Please send a list of the nominee's service accomplishments in their home department, the Section, and the community, as well as a one-page narrative, to **Tim Husband** (SHU); see page 35 for contact information.

#### Section Officers and Executive Committee.

The Nominating Committee for Section Officers (see page 35) would appreciate suggestions (by January 15) for future Section leaders. This includes self-volunteering. We need to elect a Chair and two Vice Chairs (two-year school and four-year school) to one-year appointments. Please contact **Tim Husband** (SHU) to volunteer or nominate someone.

## Award For Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Presented to Andrew Ross

The Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Award for 2011 is presented to Professor Andrew Ross, of Eastern Michigan University, to recognize and honor a teacher-scholar who uses real world problems and mainstream media to engage his students. He has published widely on using effective tools in teaching. He also coaches students for international competitions and mentors students for conference presentations.

His love of teaching started early, and he has had success right from the get-go. As a graduate student at Berkeley, he was selected as an Outstanding Teaching Assistant twice. Furthermore, he was voted by students to receive the Industrial Engineering and Operations Research Teacher of the Year Award in 2000, an award usually given to faculty.

Professor Ross is both an academic researcher and a teacher. Indeed, he has the talent to integrate the two areas. He incorporates projects in most of his classes. He applied his research expertise to curriculum development. Impressively, he teaches mathematics through realworld problems with projects on topics such as fantasy football, airport wheelchairs and automated goal detection in soccer.

To draw students' attention and to engage them in the applications of mathematics, Professor Ross started a Numb3rs Club for students to discuss the mathematics featured in each episode of this popular TV crime series. He also mentors his students for the Mathematical Contest in Modeling each year. His colleagues attribute the success of their modeling teams to the dedication and expert guidance of Professor Ross.

Professor Ross has made contributions to the curriculum at all levels. Not only did he create courses in mathematical modeling at both the undergraduate level and the graduate level, but he also coordinated his Calculus class with a Physics class to give the students a more unified view of applied mathematics. Furthermore, he coauthored an in-house textbook for a basic course in Quantitative Reasoning and has written a simulation game for this course. He uses all available tools for his classes. If the appropriate tools are not available, he will create them himself.

Eastern Michigan University has recognized Professor Ross's distinguished teaching by awarding him the Ronald Collins Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award in 2009. Additionally, he was voted as Outstanding Teacher in 2004, 2005, and 2006 by the students in the Industrial and System Engineering Department of Lehigh University. It is with great pleasure and pride that the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America presents the 2011 Distinguished University Teaching of Mathematics Award to Professor Andrew Ross.

## Citation for Sidney W. Graham for the

#### Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America Distinguished Service Award

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to recognize Sidney W. Graham, Professor of Mathematics, Central Michigan University, as the 2011 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. We gratefully acknowledge the many contributions he has made to our Section and to the larger mathematics community over the span of more than three decades of service.

Professor Graham served on the Michigan Section Executive Committee from 1999 to 2002. During this term he was Vice Chair and Program Committee Chair (1999–2000), Section Chair (2000–2001), Past Chair (2001–2002), as well as Chair of the Distinguished Teaching Award Committee (1999) and the Distinguished Service Award Committee (2002). Sid was also Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the two most recent section meetings at CMU (2000 and 2009). Sid currently serves on the Examination Committee for the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition and is Webmaster for this Section.

In the mid-1990s, Sid spent three years as a Program Director for the National Science Foundation. He returned to Michigan in 1998 as Chair of the Mathematics Department at Central Michigan University. In this capacity, his colleagues describe him as having worked tirelessly to bring recognition to mathematics and to promote their department. In addition, he encouraged younger faculty to participate in the activities of the Section and to give presentations at the Section meetings.

Just three years into his career as a professor of mathematics, Sid began to accumulate awards for his teaching excellence: two at the University of Texas in the 1980s, two at Michigan Technological University a few years later, and, most recently, our own Michigan Section's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1995.

An early student of Hugh Montgomery's, Sid describes himself as an analytic number theorist. He has published nearly thirty papers on a wide variety of topics. His Erdös number is 1.

For his many years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership, the Michigan Section is proud to present the

#### 2011 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

**PROFESSOR SIDNEY W. GRAHAM** 

## Annual Meeting at Western Michigan University, May 6–7, 2011



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John Fink presented the Distinguished Service Award to Sid Graham.



*Mike Merscher presented the Distinguished Teaching Award to Andrew Ross.* 



Michael Dorf, Brigham Young University gave both an invited and contributed talk.



Publishers played an important role in the success of the meeting.



Former Chair Gerard Venema shared wisdom with Chair-to-be Michael Bolt.



Dan LaDue, Michigan Department of Education, gave the Friday luncheon talk.



Paul Zorn, St. Olaf College, spoke on Saturday on "Extreme Calculus".



Erik Demaine, MIT, tied students in knots while speaking in the Pólya Lecture on "Algorithms Meet Art, Puzzles, and Magic".



Socializing on the deck before dinner.



Ivars Peterson, MAA Director of Publications and Communications, spoke at the Awards Dinner on "Möbius Madness".

The 2010 American Regions Math League (ARML) competition took place on June 4 on the campuses of four universities: Iowa, Penn State, Georgia, and Nevada-Las Vegas. A total of 133 teams represented various regions of the United States and Canada. Teams from eight countries also participated in the International Regions Mathematics League (IRML).

It was a banner year for Michigan! Forty Michigan All-Star students traveled to the Iowa site to compete in two teams of 15 and one team of 10. The Michigan A1 Reals placed 17th nationally out of a field of 64 in the A division. They were second at the Iowa site in the A division, following 13th place Texas A1. The Michigan B1 Naturals placed first nationally out of a field of 69 in the B division. The Michigan B2 Primes, competing with only 10 members, ranked 29 out of 69 in the B division. We are very proud of the efforts put forth by the Michigan students.

Alex Song (Detroit Country Day) was ranked first nationally in the Individual category. Alex scored a perfect ten out of ten in the Individual round, the highest in the country! (Two international students also had a perfect score.) David Lu (also DCD) was ranked 20th. Both Alex and David, who scored eight, were in a tiebreaker round to determine the top 20 individual students in the nation. High scorers for the Naturals with 7 in the Individual round were Dan Li (Ann Arbor Pioneer HS), Vikram Prasad (Troy HS), and Brian Xu (DCD). Rhagav Prabhu and Mallik Guduguntla (both International Academy) were Individual top scorers with 7 for the Primes.

The contest consists of four parts: Team problems, 20 minutes for 10 problems; Power problem, one hour for a sequence of related problems requiring proof; Individual problems, ten problems, 10 minutes for each group of two; and the Relay, short problems requiring a number to be passed back to the next team member. Groups of three get six minutes to complete each of two Relays. A tiebreaker round is held for ties for the top score in the individual round. Complete information can be found at www.arml.com.

Team coaches were **Ruth Favro** (LTU), **Ada Dong** (OU), **Dave Friday** (Grand Rapids CC), **Chris Moseley** (Calvin C), and guest coach **Michael "Cap" Khoury** (UM-Ann Arbor). Assistant coaches were former team members **Chaitanya Malla** (WSU Medical School), **Sunil Agarwal** and **Paul Lewis** (both UM-Ann Arbor), and **Nikita Consul** and **Alan Huang** (both MIT). The Michigan All-Star Project is an activity of the MAA-Michigan Section. We recruit from the top 100+ winners of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. Thanks to our supporters: the team parents, alumni donations, and a grant from the Deffenbaugh Foundation, with inkind support from the coaches' institutions.

During the 2010–2011 academic year, 7,264 Michigan students participated in the American Mathematics Competitions (AMC)-4,323 students from 55 schools in AMC 8 and 2,941 students in AMC 10/12.

Among the Michigan AMC winners for the 2010–2011 academic year, there are twelve perfect scorers for AMC 8, one perfect scorer for AMC 12B, one top scorer for each of the other three AMC high school competitions (AMC 10A, AMC 10B, and AMC 12A), and ten USAMO qualifiers. With an impressive performance, Alex Song (8th grade, Detroit Country Day) got perfect scores for both AMC 8 and AMC 12B, also the sole winner of AMC 12A. The AMC 8 perfect scorers are Mitchel Huang (6th grade, Teams Inc.), Safal Bora (7th grade, Boulan Park Middle School), Dhruv Medarametla (7th grade, Boulan Park Middle School), Anil Palepu (7th grade, Novi Middle School), Justin Xu (7th grade, Boulan Park Middle School), Raghu Arghal (8th grade, Novi Middle School), Evan Bao (8th grade, Smith Middle School), Steven Cheng (8th grade, Boulan Park Middle School, Troy), Daniel Gershenson (8th grade, Houghton Middle/High School, Houghton), Michelle Liu (8th grade, Smith Middle School), Alex Song (8th grade, Detroit Country Day), and Andrew Xu (8th grade, Detroit Country Day). The top scorers for the four AMC high school competitions are Zhibin Deng (10th grade, Rochester Adams High School), Hirsh Jain (10th grade, ICAE), and Alex Song for both AMC 12 competitions.

In 2010, 146 Michigan students qualified for the AIME (American Invitational Mathematics Examination). Among them, ten qualified for the USAMO (United States of America Mathematics Olympiad). The USAMO qualifiers are **Philip Bonneville** (10th grade, Lightkeepers Homeschool), **Khetpakorn Chakarawet** (12th grade, Cranbrook Kingswood School), **Rolland He** (11th grade, Troy High School), **Mason Liang** (12th grade, Troy High School, Troy), **David Lu** (11th grade, Detroit Country Day School), **Raj Raina** (9th grade, ICAE), **Apurva Shrivastava** (9th grade, ICAE), **Alex Song** (8th grade, Detroit Country Day School), **Peter Su** (11th grade, Plymouth Canton Educational Park), and **Allen Yuan** (12th grade, Detroit Country Day).

Ruth Favro, LTU and Ada Dong, OU

## **News from the Campuses**

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#### Adrian College [reported by Elizabeth Lamprecht]

Two new assistant professors have joined the Adrian College Mathematics Department. Matthew Zeckner recently received his Ph.D. degree from the U of Kentucky. His area of specialty is topological combinatorics. His current research interests include math education and neighborhood complexes of generalized Peterson graphs. Dorin Dumitrascu received his Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State U. His interests include geometric functional analysis and non-commutative geometry.

• Elizabeth Lamprecht is scheduled to give a presentation in the Spring as part of the Adrian College Brown Bag lecture series. She will discuss ambiguity and the role it plays in the creation of mathematics. [elamprecht@adrian.edu]

#### Albion College [reported by Mark Bollman]

Paul Anderson is on sabbatical during the Fall term, and David Seely, from Albion's physics department, is serving as acting department chair. David Reimann has returned from sabbatical. Tom McCollum, most recently from MSU, is a new visiting instructor. With the recent elimination of Albion's computer science major, Harold Connamacher has departed for a position at Case Western Reserve U. The department recently welcomed 1961 graduate **Bruce Berndt**, now at the U of Illinois, back to campus, where he gave a talk on "Ramanujan's Lost Notebook". **Darren Mason** was named Phi Beta Kappa Scholar of the Year for 2010–2011 at the Spring Honors Convocation. Darren also spent the month of June as a visiting scholar at the Max-Planck Institut für Eisenforschung in Düsseldorf, Germany, working with colleagues from the Microstructure Physics and Metal Forming division of MPIE and the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science from MSU on fundamental problems that arise in modeling microcrack/ damage nucleation in textured metals. [Mbollman@albion.edu]

#### Alpena Community College [reported by Daniel Rothe]

The new semester has started at ACC. We are proud to have the highest graduation rate of all the community colleges in Michigan again last year for the third year in a row. Dual enrollment classes in locals high schools continue to be popular. Our staff remains the same. [rothed@alpenacc.edu]

#### Andrews University [reported by Donald Rhoads]

Shandelle Henson is now Chair of the Department of Mathematics, replacing **Robert Moore**, who remains on the faculty as Prof. of Mathematics. Shandelle recently gave two talks: at the 7th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM 2011) Minisymposium on "Modeling Aspects of Endocrine Regulation in the Female Reproductive System", Vancouver, BC, July 18; and at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, SIAM Minisymposium on "Applications of Difference and Differential Equations in Ecology and Epidemiology", New Orleans, LA, January 6. [dhr@andrews.edu]

## Doctoral Studies at **Central Michigan University**

Ph.D. with Concentration in the Teaching of College Mathematics

This Ph.D. is a content-based degree designed to prepare individuals for a career in college teaching. The program consists of broadly distributed coursework, professional pedagogical components, teaching internships, and a dissertation. Areas of research strength include applied mathematics, approximation theory, combinatorics, fluid dynamics, functional analysis, operator theory, number theory, algebraic geometry, algebra, differential geometry, statistics, and mathematics education. For information contact: Graduate Coordinator, Department of Mathematics, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859; phone 989-774-3596, fax 989-774-2414, mthgrad@cmich.edu, www. cst.cmich.edu/units/mth.

CMU, an AA/EO institution, is strongly and actively committed to increasing diversity within its community (www.cmich.edu/aaeo.html).

## The Mathematics Education Admissions Committee at **Michigan State University**

is accepting applications for its

#### **Doctoral Program in Mathematics Education**

The *Doctoral Program in Mathematics Education* is designed for those who show promise of becoming researchers and leaders in state, national and international mathematics education communities. This program places an emphasis on:

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- mathematics teaching

and prepares researchers to address critical issues in mathematics teaching, learning, curriculum and policy.

Apply by December 1 for enrollment the following Fall! Teaching and research assistantships and fellowships are available. Visit our website www.dsme.msu.edu/mathed for more information, or contact:

Lisa Keller, Mathematics Education Graduate Program Coordinator 221 N. Kedzie, East Lansing, MI 48824 Phone: 517.432.2152 ×127; Fax: 517.432.9868; or kellerl@msu.edu 23

#### Calvin College [reported by John Ferdinands]

**Jan Koop** has been awarded a grant of \$220,000 by the state of Michigan for improving teacher quality. She is working with K-4 mathematics teachers in the Wyoming Public Schools. • **Tom Jager** retired at the end of the Spring Semester, after 37 years of service. [ferd@calvin.edu]

#### Central Michigan University [reported by Susan Cooper]

New faculty this Fall include **Susan Cooper** (Commutative Algebra, Algebraic Geometry, from U of Nebraska-Lincoln), **Leo Butler** (Hamiltonian Mechanics, Geometric Statistics, Computational Mathematics, from U of Edinburgh), and **Meera Mainkar** (Lie Groups, Lie Algebras, Dynamical Systems, from Dartmouth C). New temporary faculty include **Sunghoon Chung** (Statistics, from Colorado State U), **Rajarshi Dey** (Statistics, from Kansas State U), **Michael Heitzman** (Applied Mathematics, from U of Missouri), and **Tara** (Johnson) Ross (from CMU). **Ghada Ibrahim** has resigned as Director of the Statistical Consulting Center. Ghada will be replaced by Rajarshi Dey. **Linda Smoke** retired in May after over 23 years of service at CMU. Her position has been filled by **Julia Burch** as the new Director of MTH 055/105. **Doug Lapp** received a Prof. salary adjustment. **Sid Graham** and Doug Lapp will be on sabbatical for Spring 2012. • **Brad Safnuk** was selected as a recipient of the 2011 College of Science & Technology Award for Outstanding Teaching. [coope2sm@cmich.edu]

#### Eastern Michigan University [reported by Tim Carroll]

**Gabriela Dumitrascu** and **Stephanie Casey** join the faculty as Assist. Profs. Emeritus faculty members **Don Buckey** and **Jim Northey** died in September. **Ying Peng Zhang** from Xi'an U is visting this year. • **Steve Blair** won Eastern's Distinguished Teaching Award. [tcarroll@emich.edu]

#### Grand Valley State University [reported by Paul Fishback]

Robert Talbert (Ph.D. Vanderbilt University), formerly an Assoc. Prof. of Mathematics at Franklin C, has joined the department. Ed Aboufadel is on sabbatical during the Fall, and Matt Boelkins is serving as department chair during Ed's absence. Steve Schlicker is on sabbatical for both the Fall and Winter semesters. • Jonathan Hodge and former REU students Geoff Patterson (GVSU '09) and Emily Marshall were awarded the 2011 George Pólya Award for their article, "Gerrymandering and Convexity", which appeared in the *College* Mathematics Journal. Student Carlee Hollenbeck has been awarded a Knowles Science Teaching Fellowship, and student Kate Coveney is a recipient of the Hollings NOAA Scholarship. GVSU once again hosted an NSF-funded REU during the summer of 2011. Eight students from across the country worked in pairs under the direction of Ed Aboufadel, Will Dickinson, Filiz Dogru, and Jon Hodge. Each team gave a presentation at MathFest in Lexington, with two students, Clark Bowman and Ada Yu, who worked under the direction of Jon Hodge, receiving an MAA award for their presentation. In addition, the GVSU REU team won this year's Mathematics Jeopardy game at MathFest, and two students from the GVSU Iota Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon made presentations at the conference. GVSU will

host an REU again in the Summer of 2012, with research topics to include equal circle packing, combinatorial identities, voting theory, and the mathematics of Sudoku. Please encourage your students to apply. See www.gvsu.edu/mathreu for further details. • GVSU will also host Math in Action 2012: Strategies for Students Success on Saturday, February 25. For more information and registration please visit www.gvsu.edu/math/events/mathinaction/current.html. Speaker proposals are currently being sought. Please submit by October 24. Details are on the Web site. [fishbacp@gvsu.edu]

#### Hope College [reported by Todd Swanson]

We are sad to report that **Mary DeYoung** passed away this past July after a brief battle with cancer and that former department chair **Jay Folkert** passed away this past August at the age of 94. **Nathan Tintle** left his position at Hope to join the faculty at Dordt College. • **Dan Emmendorfer** and **Martha Precup** won Pi Mu Epsilon's Andree Prize for the paper "Classification of Geometric Spirals", which they wrote while they were students at Hope. [swansont@hope.edu]

## Lawrence Technological University [reported by Michael Merscher]

Jonathan Cohen of NVIDIA presented two lectures to the student body. C. J. Chung and Chris Cartwright got 2011–12 Robofest going with a Robo Expo, and a Robo Parade in November. The World Robofest Finals will be held in the spring. The 41st annual LTU High School Math Competition was held in May, with first place going to **Raghav Prabhu** of International Academy East. The 42nd annual competition will be held in the spring, under the supervision of **Mike Merscher**. • Guang-Chong Zhu was granted tenure this past Spring. [merscher@ltu.edu]

#### Michigan Technological University [reported by Jeanne Meyers]

The Department welcomes four new tenure-track Assistant Professors: **Stefaan De Winter** (Ph.D. 2004, Mathematics, Ghent U, Belgium), **Alexander Labovsky** (Ph.D. 2008, Mathematics, U of Pittsburgh), **Rebecca Schmitz** (Ph.D. 2008, Mathematics, U of Virginia), and **Zhengfu Xu** (Ph.D. 2005, Applied Mathematics, Brown U). **Qiuying Sha** and **Fabrizio Zanello** were promoted to Assoc. Prof. with tenure on August 15. **Ethan Smith** continues his professional leave as a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre de Recherches Mathématiques (CRM) at the U of Montreal. Fabrizio is spending the Fall semester at MIT as a Visit. Scholar/Visit. Prof. conducting research with **Richard Stanley**. **Lee Erlebach** retired in December, 2010 and **Gilbert Lewis** retired in August, 2011. [jemeyers@mtu.edu]

#### North Central Michigan College [reported by Gary S. Kersting]

**Brian Goetz** was welcomed this fall to North Central Michigan C as an instructor of mathematics. Brian is a native of Okemos and is the son of an MSU organic chemistry professor. He graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA with a degree in mechanical engineering. He subsequently earned a master of science degree in mechanics from MSU. Later, he decided he wanted to move from engineering to the classroom, which motivated him to earn a second

master's degree in applied mathematics from WMU. He taught math at Kellogg CC for nine years prior to coming to North Central. He has a textbook in print on applied mathematics. Brian became interested in North Central after spending a month in the area on sabbatical. You will frequently notice a 17-foot wooden CLC kayak on the top of his car. [gkersting@ncmich.edu]

#### Oakland University [reported by Jerry Grossman]

**Dan Steffy** has been hired as an Assist. Prof. He received his Ph.D. in algorithms, combinatorics, and optimization at Georgia Tech and will join us in January, after completing a post-doc at Zuse Institute Berlin. Serge Kruk is on a leave of absence, living in Washington, DC and teaching at American U. Wen Zhang and Rob Kushler are on sabbatical leave in the Fall, and Theo Ogunyemi will be on sabbatical in the Winter. Department Chair Eddie Cheng has been named Distinguished Prof., an honor given to about one outstanding Oakland University faculty member per year. Jerry Grossman received one of two Faculty Engagement Awards from the College of Arts and Sciences this Fall. These awards are designed "to recognize faculty members whose work connects students, scholarship, and community" and come with a \$1000 expense account to further such engagement. Prof. Emer. G. Philip Johnson died in February. He served the university from 1965 to 1994, including terms as department chair and dean of graduate study. • We expect to conduct the 17th annual Oakland University Summer Mathematics Institute for talented local high school students in 2012; see www.oakland. edu/mathematics/OUSMI for details. • In April the department organized the 2011 SIAM Great Lakes Section Meeting: Modeling and Numerical PDEs in Mathematical Biology and Applications. Nearly 100 people from both academia and industry in the Great Lakes region participated in this conference. In May Dan Steffy and Tony Shaska will organize ECAD 2012 (East Coast Algebra Day) at OU. This is the 13th ECAD conference held different universities throughout the eastern U.S. That same month the first Michigan Computational Algebraic Geometry conference will be held here. This is a consortium among industry partners and universities in Michigan and will be organized on a yearly basis in different universities in Michigan. The Department's colloquium series schedule can be found at www.oakland.edu/math/colloquia. [grossman@oakland.edu]

#### Saginaw Valley State University [reported by Anthony Crachiola] Cyrus Aryana was promoted to the rank of Prof. Anthony Crachiola and Todorka Nedeva were promoted to the rank of Assoc. Prof. Emmanuel Ncheuguim (Ph.D., New Mexico State U) joined the department as Assist. Prof. SVSU will host the next MAA Michigan Section Annual Meeting on May 4–5. [acrachio@svsu.edu]

#### University of Michigan-Dearborn [reported by Margret Höft]

In September, the department celebrated the installation of a Penrose Tiling on the mathematics floor of the CASL building and commemorated the events of September 11, 2001 with the lecture series Transcending Differences: Tiling in Islamic and Western Culture. **Craig Kaplan** of the School of Computer Science, U of Waterloo, gave talks on "Disorderly Tiles, Orderly Non-tiles, and the Path to Aperiodicity" and on "Revolutions in Mathematics and the Evolution of Design". The Penrose tiling can be seen at http://www.umdearbornreporter.com/2011/03/adifferent-kind-of-rose. • Assist. Prof. **Thomas Fiore** and his co-authors **Alissa Crans** and **Ramon Satyendra** were honored by the MAA with the 2011 Merten M. Hasse award for their paper "Musical Actions of Dihedral Groups", which appeared in *The American Mathematical Monthly*, June/July 2009. • Three long-term faculty members are retiring. **James Brown** will retire effective December 31. He began his teaching career at UM-Dearborn as an Assist. Prof. in 1964. **Margret Höft** and **Ronald Morash** are on retirement furlough with retirement dates of April 30, 2012. Ronald joined the faculty as an Assist. Prof. in 1971; Margret was a lecturer from 1973 to 1979 and became a tenure track faculty member as an assistant professor in 1979. **Christopher Novak** is currently on a one-year leave of absence from the University. [mhoft@umd.umich.edu]

#### Wayne State University [reported by Daniel Drucker]

New faculty members include the following. Rohini Kumar (Ph.D., 2009, U of Wisconsin-Madison under the direction of **Timo Seppalainen**) is a probabilist. Rohini has been a postdoctoral fellow for the past two years in the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability at the U California, Santa Barbara. Kyungyong Lee (Ph.D., 2008, UM-Ann Arbor, where he worked with Robert Lazarsfeld) is an algebraic geometer whose work involves commutative algebra and combinatorics. Kyungyong has held postdoctoral positions at Purdue and Connecticut. Hengguang Li (Ph.D., 2008, Penn State under Victor Nistor and Ludmil Zikatanov) has been an IMA postdoc for the past year. Prior to that he held a postdoctoral position at Syracuse U. Hengguang is an applied mathematician who specializes in numerical methods. Andrew Salch (Ph.D., 2008, Rochester with Douglas Ravenel) has done postdoctoral work at Johns Hopkins for the past three years. Andrew is an algebraic topologist with a broad range of interests. New lecturers Christopher Leirstein and Daniel Preisler are known to many department members from their student days at WSU as well as from their more recent work in the department. Peter Malcolmson completed his phased retirement at the end of the 2010–2011 academic year after 34 years in the department. Tachen Liang also retired at the end of 2010–2011. He had been at WSU since 1987. • Po Hu has been promoted to Prof. • Guozhen Lu, Peiyong Wang, and George Yin will be on leave for the Fall term. Po Hu and Ualbai Umirbaev will be on leave in Winter 2012. • We are still recovering from the loss of our friend and colleague James Veneri, who died this summer after an illness of several months. Jim shaped the department in unanticipated ways, such as expanding the scope of our tutoring center and converting it into a Math Resource Center that offers support, social interaction, and even a lecture series to our undergraduate and graduate students. Jim also became our volunteer department photographer, interior decorator, and publicity agent, covering our hallways with photographic and printed tributes to student and faculty accomplishments. We cannot expect to fully replace him, but the department is currently conducting a search to fill his position. For more about Jim and his many contributions to the department, see math.wayne.edu/Veneri.pdf and www.clas.

wavne.edu/math. We note with sadness the passing of Harold (Ted) Slaby last Fall, 20 years after retiring from our faculty. Ted was our first winner of the President's Excellence in Teaching Award. He was very active in the MAA and was prized for his excellent talks in area schools. • In 2010–11 we welcomed many visitors to our department: Jiguang Bao, Bjorn Dunda, Hector Jasso-Fuentes, Meishing Li, Ling Xiong Meng, Fuke Wu, Zhongfeng Yau, Quandua Xu, and Alain Zemkoho. This year we are sharing a visitor, Jaemin Shin, with GM Research Labs. Jaemin received his Ph.D. in 2008 from Iowa State U under the direction of Paul Sacks and has been an IMA postdoc and a visiting scholar at MSU. He will continue his work with Jeff Abell at the GM Labs. • The WSU Math Corps has been selected as the WSU's Community Organization Leadership Award winner because "it is sincerely focused on encouraging and raising up the youth of Detroit academically and personally. They believe everyone has greatness inside of them and strive to help the youth bring it out in themselves." The award was presented during the tribute to **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** held at the Max M. Fisher Music Theatre on January 18, 2011. • Boris Mordukhovich was awarded the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa by the U of Messina in Italy. This is his fourth honorary degree, the previous ones having been granted by the U of Alicante, Spain, National Sun Yat-sen U, Taiwan, and Vasile Goldis U, Romania. Boris is a Distinguished University Professor and the President of the WSU Academy of Scholars. • George Yin has been elected Vice President of the Academy of Scholars. He will succeed Boris Mordukhovich as President when Boris' term ends. • Lawrence Brenton received the Trevor Evans award from the MAA for his article "The Adventures of Pi-Man: Measuring the Universe", Math Horizons, vol. 17:4 (2010), pp. 12–15. • (Apologies from the editor: some of this news was submitted in the Spring, but omitted from the Spring *Newsletter*.) [drucker@math.wayne.edu]

## Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

The fourteenth Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference will take place on the campus of Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan on Saturday, March 3. This date is a departure from the traditional Fall conference in previous years, so please mark your calendars. The conference schedule will be similar to the schedule in previous years and will include student presentations and presentations from graduate schools and mathematics REU programs. We are excited to announce that this year's keynote speaker will be **Tim Pennings**. We know all will enjoy his presentation, "Do Dogs Know Calculus and Do Dogs Know Bifurcations". Up-to-date information will be posted on the Section's Web site as soon as it is available. For further information, please contact **Tim Husband** at thusband@ sienaheights.edu

## University of Michigan Biostatistics Department

#### M.S., M.P.H., Ph.D. Degree Programs

Our department offers training in the development and application of statistical and mathematical methods to the design and analysis of biomedical research. We offer course work leading to the degrees of Master of Science, Master of Public Health, and Doctor of Philosophy. We have a large number of funding opportunities for our students including graduate student instructorships, graduate student research assistantships, training grants, scholarships, and fellowships. The faculty conduct cutting-edge research in bioinformatics, imaging, longitudinal data, missing data, survival analysis, statistical genetics, and many other areas. Our graduates have great job opportunities in academia, industry (e.g. biotech, pharmaceuticals), medical research institutions, and government.

For detailed information on our programs and to find out how to apply go to

www.sph.umich.edu/biostat.

For further information, please contact

sph.bio.inquiries@umich.edu.

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30 Positions Available

NOTE: Most positions in the mathematical sciences, including many of the ones listed here, are advertised in Employment Information in the Mathematical Sciences (www.ams.org/eims). See also www.mathjobs.org. The MAA also has a Web site for employment opportunities (www.mathclassifieds. org). All openings are for Fall 2012 unless otherwise stated, and further information is available from the department.

**Central Michigan University** (www.cst.cmich.edu/mathematics) invites applications for a tenure-track position in Statistics at the assistant professor level. This position offers the opportunity to join our growing academic programs in statistics, actuarial science, and data mining.

**Hope College** (www.math.hope.edu/position2011.html) is searching to fill a tenure-track position in statistics and (pending approval) a position in mathematics education.

**Michigan Technological University** (mtu.edu/math/department/positions) has tenure-track positions open in Statistics and Numerical Analysis.

**Oakland University** (www.oakland.edu/math/positions) is seeking a faculty member at the rank of assistant professor in the area of Applied Partial or Ordinary Differential Equations and/or Dynamical Systems.

**University of Michigan-Dearborn** (www.casl.umd.umich.edu/index. php?id=535201) plans to hire three new faculty members at the Assist. Prof. level.

## **Student Chapter News**

#### Alpena Community College

Sigma Zeta Math/Science Honor Society inducted nine new members in the Spring. We were excited to induct our 100th member since we started in 2005. The members helped with the Regional Science Olympiad Tournament and enjoyed a tour of the Chevy Silverado Plant in Flint. We were happy to have a high graduation rate last year but will be looking for new members this fall. The group plans to help with the military ball at the Combat Readiness Training Center for Phelps Collins Air Base. Officers for the 2011–2012 school year are **Elizabeth VanSipe**, President; **Emily Howard**, Vice President; and **Shanell Patterson**, Secretary.

#### Andrews University

Officers of the Michigan Gamma Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon are Theron Calkins,

President; Luis Garibay, Vice President; and Cecelia Dias, Secretary/Treasurer. Faculty sponsor is Joon H. Kang. The Chapter normally meets with Eigen, the math-physics club. On September 23 Eric 'Siggy' Scott spoke to the Chapter on artificial intelligence. Siggy is an Andrews alumnus currently studying computer science at George Mason University. On October 7 three student missionaries spoke of their experiences, which range from tech support at a hospital in Malawi to math and science teaching in the Marshall Islands. In the spring Pi Mu Epsilon plans to sponsor two more eigentalks as well as a  $\pi$ -day celebration on March 14.

#### Lawrence Technological University

Math Club plans a scavenger hunt in the Fall, and members are practicing for upcoming competitions. The officers are **Megan Hollowell**, President, together with **Stephanie Shevenock**, **Jamie MacLennon**, and **Dan McGee**.

#### **Oakland University**

Oakland University has an active student actuarial club. See www.facebook.com/ pages/Society-of-Actuarial-Science-Oakland-University/158051234278987. At recent meetings students heard a presentation from the university's risk management officer and shared experiences in interviewing for summer intern positions.

## Section Dues: Individual • Institutional

The 2011–2012 individual and institutional membership dues for the Michigan Section are now being accepted. The \$15 individual dues payment (or \$30 contributing member payment) and the \$40 (small school) or \$70 (large school) institutional dues help support the activities of the Section such as its annual meeting and *Newsletter*. This coupon may be used to submit dues payments.

Enclosed is a check for:	Regular Dues	@ \$15	
	Contributing Membership	@ \$30	
	Small Institutional Dues	@ \$40	
	Large Institutional Dues	@ \$70	
Name			
Institution			
Mailing Address			
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Make checks payable to the I man, Secretary/Treasurer, I and Computer Science, Alb	Michigan Section–MAA, and mail the Michigan Section–MAA, Departm ion College, Albion, Michigan 492	hem to: Marl ent of Mathe 24-5013.	k Boll matic



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The Department of Mathematics, Western Michigan University, consists of 37 full-time faculty members with specialties in many areas of mathematics and mathematics education, with about 35 graduate teaching assistants and doctoral associates. Western Michigan University is located in beautiful southwestern Michigan, midway between Chicago and Detroit, near Lake Michigan.

*Degree Programs* The Department offers a variety of graduate programs tailored to meet the wants and needs of our graduate students. We offer Ph.D.s in Mathematics and Mathematics Education; and Master's degrees in Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Mathematics Education. Graduate students receive individualized attention and encouragement from professors committed to maintaining the highest standards in research and teaching.

*Financial Assistance* The Department offers several forms of financial assistance. Stipends range from \$11,316 to \$31,500. Additional summer support may be available. Currently all supported doctoral students and master's students receive tuition waivers. Applications are due by 15 February 2012. Late applications are accepted as long as openings remain.

All application materials are available on our Web pages:

www.wmich.edu/math

For additional information, please contact:

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Western Michigan University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.



#### Michigan Technological University Department of Mathematical Sciences GRADUATE PROGRAM

Michigan Technological University offers masters and doctoral degrees in the fields of Applied Mathematics, Discrete Mathematics and Statistics. Michigan Tech researchers in Applied Mathematics study computational fluid dynamics, modeling and simulation of natural processes, and numerical methods for ordinary and partial differential equations. Discrete Mathematics faculty are expert in design and coding theory, number theory, and algebra. The Statistics faculty specialize in statistical genetics, computational methods, functional data analysis, and statistical consulting. Our high level of research activity has placed our department among the top 75 of all math departments in the country in research spending.

In addition to developing your research ability, we will also help you develop your teaching skills with our comprehensive training program for teaching assistants. An increasing number of students are obtaining internships with government agencies or private industry. These features of our program, along with the coursework in mathematics, statistics, and numerical methods, provide an exceptional preparation for both academic and nonacademic careers.

Full financial support, including stipend, tuition and fees waiver, and health insurance, is available for qualified students. Additional summer support is also available for many of our qualified students. The Michigan Tech campus is located in Houghton, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula. The area offers outstanding recreational opportunities and a safe, affordable environment to live and work.

Detailed information is available on our Web site: www.math.mtu.edu/graduate

#### For more information contact:

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## 34 COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

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#### **Mathematical Association of America**

#### **Contact Information**

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**Distinguished Service Award Committee** 

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## New Member Application

Α.	PRINT MEMBERSHIP**	al Salary exceeds \$60,800 jular – Eligibility: Joes not exceed \$60,800
	Mathematics Magazine	**Offer applicable to first time members only.
	ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP*\$49 One year dues with electronic access to MAA FOCUS, American Mathematical Monthly, College Mathematics Journal and Mathematics Magazine. *An email address is required for electronic access. Please print your email address here:	<b>A</b>
В.	ADD-ON A SUBSCRIPTION     College Mathematics Journal     Mathematics Magazine     \$38     American Mathematical Monthly     \$57     JSTOR     Math Horizons     \$29     MAA FOCUS (Print)	B
C.	JOIN A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIGMAA)     Business, Industry & Government   \$12     Environmental Mathematics   \$12     The History of Mathematics   \$12     Mathematics Instruction Using the Web   \$12     Statistics Education   \$12     Quantitative Literacy   \$12     Research in Undergraduate Mathematics   \$12     Research in Undergraduate Mathematics   \$12     Mathematics and the Arts   \$12     Mathematics on the Arts   \$12     Mathematics on the Arts   \$12     Mathematics and the Arts   \$12     Mathematics and Tomputational Biology   \$12     Mathematics and Teachers   \$12	c
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